

Isaac Van Campen House

HABS-NJ-436

Old Mine Road

Shapanack

Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey

HABS

NJ

19-SHAPV

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of New Jersey

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey

Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer

123 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Isaac Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Shapanack
Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey

Owner: B. F. Tuthill
Roselle, New Jersey

Date of Erection: About 1750

Architect:

Builder: Isaac Van Campen

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - plaster;
each of the four large
rooms are panelled on the
fireplace end

Inside chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

On July 31, 1750 Isaac Van Campen bought a tract of land on the Jersey side at Walpack from Joseph Stout of Hopewell. Isaac probably built here shortly after. We know that in 1752 he was drawn for grand jury duty in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, but did not appear probably because he was in Walpack at that time.

He was living at Walpack at the time of the French and Indian War in 1755-58. His house was used as one of the headquarters during the war, and one of the series of forts built along the Delaware was on a hill to the north of the house. Isaac was a member of the Continental Congress.

General Gates marching from Ticonderoga to reenforce Washington came down the Old Mine Road. He arrived at Van Campen's December 10, 1776. A letter he wrote to Washington from here is dated "Dec. 12, 1776 Van Kemp's, 15 miles from Sussex Court House". John Adams making his trips from New England to Philadelphia used the Old Mine Road as late as 1800 and stopped here at the Van Campen House.

The house passed from Isaac to his son Abraham, who sold the homestead about 1812. Abraham moved to the adjoining place of Colonel Rosecranz. He had married a daughter of Rosencranz. Henry De Witt of Rochester bought the house for his son John H. During the nineteenth century it changed hands many times. It is now occupied by tenants.

The house is sixty feet long; the front is of dressed limestone and the rear of regular cut stone. It has an ornamental cornice and a steep pitch roof. Originally, there was a two story wing to the house that was used as slave quarters. The stairway is an exceptionally fine one and resembles that of the Trent House (NJ-200). All of the rooms have a panel end on the fireplace side; that of the old living room is the most elaborate.

Bibliography:

Bailey, R. F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses
and Families in Northern New Jersey and
Southern New York New York, William Morrow
and Company 1936

Local information



Supervising Historian

Approved:



SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

7/10/21/1937

Isaac Van Campen House
East side Old Mine Road
Wallpack Center Vicinity
Walpack Township
Sussex County
New Jersey
Addendum to:
Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Shapanack
Sussex County
New Jersey
in HABS 1941 Catalog

HABS No. NJ-436

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ISAAC VAN CAMPEN HOUSE

HABS No. NJ - 436
(PAGE 4)

An addendum to
Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Shapanack
Sussex County
New Jersey
in HABS 1941 Catalog

Location: East side of Old Mine Road, .7 mile northwest of Walpack Center, Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Lake Maskenozha Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.509040. 4556810.

Present Owner: United States Government

Present Use: Residence

Significance: This stone house, pretentious for its time, was built about 1750 by Isaac Van Campen. Van Campen was a prominent citizen, holding several public offices and supporting the revolutionary cause in the 1770s. The house shows strong Georgian and Dutch influences. The three principal rooms have excellent examples of full paneled walls.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1754, when Isaac Van Campen acquired the property. Faden's map, published in 1778, shows this building, although virtually no other buildings are noted. This map was based on surveys made in 1769 and on military surveys by British troops. Stickney in Article No. 15 quotes from Count Zinzendorf's diary entry of 1742 describing his trip in the vicinity and notes that as prominent a building as the Van Campen Inn would have merited comment if it had been built by that time.
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which this building stands. Reference is to the New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, New Jersey, for the first two entries, and to the Recorder's Office, Sussex County, Newton, New Jersey, for the rest.

- 1754 8 April 1754 Rec. 1 June 1762
Liber R p. 421
Harmon Rosenkrans of Shappanack, Twp. of Walpack, Sussex Co.
Yeoman & Mary (wife)
to
Isaac VanCampen of Upper Smithfield in Northampton Co.,
Pa. Yeoman
For 900 pounds.
Refers to deed from Alexander Rosenkrans, late of Shappanack,
dated 27 March 1742, "...being part of a tract of land which
John Crooke Merchant of Kingston in the County of Ulster...
conveyed unto the said Alexander Rosenkrans & Frederick
Skoomaker of said county of Ulster and by virtue of a certain
conveyance by Lease and Release from Joseph Helby Citizen and
Brewer of London to him the said John Crooke duly made and
executed by John Hamilton of New York in America Merchant by
virtue of a Deed instrument or letter of attorney in writing
under the hand and seal of the said Joseph Helby bearing date
the 20th of August 1713 and recorded in the secretary's office
at Burlington in the Western Division of New Jersey in Book BB
folio 445."
Known by the name Shappanack.
500 acres and 7.62 acres, meadow.
Written 7 Sept. 1801
Probated 19 Dec. 1801.
- 1801 Will of Isaac VanCampen
File No. 952-S
Room "in which I now live" shall be appropriated to the use of
son Isaac during his natural life. To Abraham: full
possession of real estate during the life of his three
impotent children. After death of children, farm to be
divided between Isaac and Abraham.
- 1808 Deed: 9 May 1808 Rec. 23 May 1808
Deed Book Vol. S p. 4
Abraham VanCampen, executor of last will and testament of
Isaac VanCampen, Esq., decd., and Rowena his wife, Isaac
VanCampen, John I. Rosenkranse (son-in-law) and Catherine (his
wife) all of Walpack
to
Henry Dewitt, Jr. of Rochester Township, Ulster Co., N.Y.
For \$7500. 356.86 acres and 7.60 acres in Walpack Township.
- 1809 Deed: 23 May 1809 Rec. 24 May 1809
Deed Book Vol. S p. 404
Abraham Van Campen of Walpack
to Henry Dewitt, Jr., of town of Rochester, Ulster Co., N.Y.
For \$5000. 318 acres excepting church lot and 7 acres.
Refers to the previous purchase of the farm and homestead by

Dewitt. Land adjoins the "late plantation of Isaac Van Campen." Dewitt is indemnified against all claims of the "three impotent children" of Isaac, whom Abraham was enjoined in his father's will to support as a condition of his inheritance.

- 1809 Deed: 22 May 1809 Rec. 24 May 1809
Deed Book Vol. T. p. 44
Isaac Van Campen to Henry Dewitt
For \$500, release of all claim to land of Isaac, Sr.
- 1811 Deed: 11 Sept. 1811. Rec. 8 Dec. 1820
Deed Book Vol Q-2 p. 27
Henry Dewitt, Jr., and wife to John I. Rosenkrans
Henry Dewitt had doubts on the legality of his purchase of the farm, so Abraham VanCampen mortgaged the farm and allowed foreclosure of the mortgage, thereby giving Dewitt possession. John Rosenkrans raised the "three impotent children" and had use of part of the farm during this time. On the death of the children, he would receive part of the farm.
- 1822 Deed: April 1822 Recd. 8 May 1822
Vol. S-2 p. 385
Henry Dewitt et ux of Ulster Co., N.Y.
to John H. Dewitt of Walpack
Bounded on the west by the Delaware River, on the north by the land of heir Rosenkrans, on the east by public highway, and on the south by the lands of Henry Dewitt.
For \$1 20 acres
- 1823 Deed: 1 Sept. 1823 Rec. 1 Sept. 1823
Vol. X-2 p. 430
Henry Dewitt Jr. to John I. Rosenkrans
The land as agreed in 1811.
- 1838 Deed: 7 April 1838 Rec. 24 May 1842
Vol. A-4 p. 258
Cornelia Dewitt wife of John H. Dewitt dec'd.
For \$2500. 20.56 acres
- 1838 Deed 7 April 1838 Rec. 24 May 1842
Vol. A-4 p. 259
Cornelius W. Dewitt
to Henry Dewitt and Peter Dewitt
For \$2500. An undivided 1/3 share of the land of John H. Dewitt, decd.

- 1838 Deed 7 April 1838 Rec. 24 May 1842
Vol. A-4 p. 261
Jacob Myers and wife Sarah to Henry Dewitt and Peter Dewitt
For \$856. 34.24 acres.
- 1842 Deed: 13 April 1842 Rec. 24 May 1842
Vol. A-4 p. 262
Henry Dewitt Jr.
to Henry Dewitt, Peter Dewitt, Cornelius W. Dewitt
For \$2000. 7.6 acres
- 1851 Release 29 Dec. 1851 Rec. 24 March 1852
Vol. M-4 p. 656
June Hornbeck, Herman Rosenkrans & Ann, Jacob Dewitt & wife,
John A. Dewitt & wife
to Peter Dewitt, Henry Dewitt, Cornelius W. Dewitt
For \$1.00. 306 acres.
- 1851 Deed: 9 Dec. 1851 Rec. 15 April 1852
Vol. N-4 p. 139
Cornelius Dewitt & wife to Henry Dewitt, Peter Dewitt
For \$4000. 1/3 part of 305.98 acres
- 1852 Deed: 20 Jan. 1852 Rec. 15 April 1852
Vol. N-4 p. 137
Henry Dewitt & Elizabeth to Peter Dewitt
For \$6000. "...from door of stone mansion house."
- 1860 Deed: 31 March 1860 Rec. 10 May 1863
Vol. L-5 p. 38
Peter Dewitt & Sarah to John Berk
For \$12,000. 267 acres.
- 1874 Will: 27 April 1874 Rec. 1 June 1874
Will Book WB-6 p. 344
John Berk, dec'd
to Hannah L. Berk, Richard T. Layton (son-in-law), Mary Alice
Berk
: To each 1/3 if Hannah remarried. All to Hannah if she
remained single.
Richard T. Layton had married S. Eliz. Layton
- 1917 Deed: 7 Feb. 1917 Rec. 27 Feb. 1917
Vol. O-11 p. 132
Martin Rosenkranz, one of the Special Masters in Chancery in
New Jersey.
to John J. VanSickle and Clarence E. Layton
For \$6000. 267 acres. Settlement of a lawsuit brought
because it was not practical to operate the farm except as a
whole.

Interests in the property were as follows:

S. Elizabeth Layton, 1/3. Mary Alice Layton (wife of Jackson Layton), 1/3. Cory James Bell and Ernest M. Bell, each 1/6. Apparently Cory and Ernest Bell were sons of Hannah L. Berk by a second marriage.

- 1920 Deed: 21 May 1920 Rec. 22 May 1920
Vol. X-11 p. 323
John J. VanSickle and Abbie, his wife, and Clarence E. Layton and Maggie, his wife
to Floyd A. Snover and Harry W. Snover
For \$1. 267 acres.
- 1923 Deed: 1 Aug. 1923 Rec. 2 Aug. 1923
Vol. K-12 p. 415
Floyd A. Snover and Mary, his wife to Harry W. Snover. Half interest in the lands as described in deed of 21 May 1920. Intention: to convey rights and interests acquired by adverse use and possession by prior owners. Subject to 1923 mortgage now due, \$4500 plus interest. Together with the undivided right in lands conveyed by J.J. VanSickle and C.E. Layton to F. and M. Snover, 21 May 1920.
- 1924 Deed: 9 Aug. 1924 Rec. 11 Aug. 1924
Vol. Q-12 p. 172
Harry W. Snover and Mary A., his wife
to Louis J. Richards
267 acres.
- 1932 Deed: 1 Sept. 1932 Rec. 9 Sept. 1932
Vol. 331 p. 226
Bartley F. Tuthill and Margaret M. Tuthill
to Susan M. Tuthill
For \$1.00 267 acres.
- 1941 Deed: 29 March 1941 Rec. 31 March 1941
Vol. 381 p. 307
Susan M. Tuthill, single to Nat Ludwig and Hilda Ludwig
For \$1. 267 acres.
- 1966 Deed: 2 March 1966 Rec. 3 March 1966
Vol. 801 p. 439
Freida E. Beisler, Widow, of Walpack Twp., Sussex Co., N. J.
to Bernice Haydu
For \$1.00. Tract is part of premises conveyed by Susan M. Tuthill to Nat Ludwig and wife. Tract I is 211.86 acres and contains the house.

4. Alterations and additions: At the northeast end of the building there was a stone, gable-roofed addition, which may be seen in

old photographs, two of which are included with this documentation. The stuccoed northeast wall of the present building shows "shadows" of the addition caused by the painting of this end wall because it served as the interior of rooms in the addition. The northeast wall of the present building served as the southwest wall of the addition, establishing the fact that the present building was built first.

The old photograph also shows that the end walls of the present building were not originally stuccoed, that the present porch was preceded by one which was only one bay wide and had Victorian scroll work, and that the windows had twelve-over-twelve-light sash on the second floor. The dormer window on the southeast elevation also appears to be an addition.

Stickney's Article No. 15 includes a photograph of the building in which the addition is still standing, showing the building as it was before the present windows and porch were added. Since Stickney's articles were published from July 1911 to January 1912, and since the article does not mention the removal of the addition, it would seem that it must have been standing at the time. When HABS recorded the structure in 1937, the addition had been removed and the present porch had been added. The present porch appears to date from between 1915 and 1930.

Brown (p.77) believes that the interior paneling is an addition. Plastered walls, chair rails, backboards, and even mantels were found behind the present cabinets and paneling Brown credits John VanSickle, who owned the building from 1917 to 1920, with making these changes. In 1911, however, Stickney (Article No. 15) referred to these large cabinets as bars for liquor when the house was an inn, indicating that not only were they extant in 1911, but that Stickney assumed they were original.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Isaac Van Campen (1721-1801) was the son of John Van Campen (b. 1693), who was the brother of Col. Abraham Van Campen, whose house still stands (HABS No. NJ - 430). Isaac Van Campen was apparently an active citizen. Stickney (Article No. 20) noted that he was a member of the Board of Freeholders of Sussex County, which met at Newton on May 10, 1775, and resolved to appropriate no further funds to pay the King's judges of the Supreme Court. On August 10 and 11, 1775, Van Campen attended a meeting of the Committee of Safety in Newton. Snell (p. 317) stated that Isaac Van Campen of Shapanack was a prominent citizen of the township, an early justice of the peace, judge of the County Courts, and a member of the Legislature from 1782 to 1785. His son, Abraham, who succeeded his father to the estate, was prominent in public affairs "about the beginning of the Revolution."

Stickney (Article No. 15) said that John Adams, according to Luke Brodhead, stopped at "Squire Van Campen's in the Jersey Minisinks" between 1774-77 on his way to Congress, but this could not be verified. John Adams' letters and diary show that his customary route between Boston and Philadelphia was by way of New York City. His last trip to Philadelphia from Boston and back was made during 1777, but he appears to have traveled by way of Sussex County Courthouse (Newton) to Easton, a route roughly parallel with the Minisink valley but farther to the east (Adams, Butterfield).

Tax records of 1773 list 760 acres of land in possession of Isaac Van Campen, Esq., twenty-three horses and cattle, three servants and slaves. Same for 1774, but twenty horses and cattle.

Larrabee (pp. 3, 224) noted that the Headquarters fort of the fortified New Jersey frontier of the 1750s may have been located in the vicinity of this house, perhaps on the hill overlooking it, but that primary documentary evidence is slight and that no study of the physical evidence has been made.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished:

Map. "The Province of New Jersey, Divided into East and West, Commonly Called The Jerseys". 2nd edition. Engraved and published by William Faden, Charing Cross. Dec. 1, 1778.

State of New Jersey, Public Record Office. Ratables, Walpack Twp., Sussex Co. 1773, 1774.

2. Secondary and published:

Adams, Charles Francis. Familiar Letters of John Adams and His Wife Abigail During the Revolution (New York, 1876).

Brown, Lenard E. "Historical Base Map: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." National Park Service, Denver Service Center, March, 1973.

Butterfield, L. R., Ed. Diary and Autobiography of John Adams. Vol. 2, Diary 1771-1781 (Cambridge, Mass., 1962).

Decker, Amelia Stickney. That Ancient Trail. Trenton, N.J. 1942.

Larrabee, Edward Conyers McMillan. New Jersey and the Fortified Frontier System of the 1750's. Ph. D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1970.

Snell, James B. History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia, 1881.

Stickney, Charles E. "The Old Mine Road." A series of articles published from 7 July 1911 to 19 Jan. 1912 in the Wantage Recorder, Sussex, N.J., a newspaper of which Stickney was publisher, proprietor and author.

Prepared by Wesley Shank
William C. Badger
Project Historians
HABS
August, 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Isaac Van Campen House, showing Georgian influences in its layout and Dutch influences in its flared gable roof, was the most elaborate house of its time in this area.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house measures 47' - 4" across its five-bay front by 26' - 7" deep. It is two-and-a-half stories tall.
2. Foundations: Stone. Concrete work at base of stone walls inside cellar, about 8" high.
3. Wall construction, finish, color: Coursed rubble Onandanga limestone, plastered on the northeast and southwest end walls. Most of the northeast wall up to the first-floor level is thickened with a poured concrete wall where an earlier addition joined.
4. Structural system, framing: The first, second and attic floors are framed with timber beams spanning clear, from front and rear stone bearing walls. The first-floor beams, visible in the cellar, are mostly logs dressed only on the upper side. Here girders on posts, of apparently recent date, have been placed in two lines, parallel to and about 8' from the front and rear walls, to reduce the span of the floor beams. The second-floor and the attic beams are finished smooth and have a bead cut into them at their two lower edges. These beams are visible from the floor below and are approximately 10" deep by 6 ¹/₂" wide. Plank

floors are laid on the beams. The hewn roof rafters meet at the ridge in pegged tongue-and-fork joints. There is no ridge pole. At the eaves outlookers cut with the top surface curving upward are nailed to the sides of the rafters with wrought-iron nails. Collar beams tie rafters and are connected to the rafters in pegged, mortised lap-joints. The rafters are 74" clear of the attic floor. In alternate rafters there are mortises that appear to have held earlier collar beams 62" clear of the floor, suggesting that the original collar beams had been replaced by the present higher ones. The stripping on the rafters is tongue-and-grooved boards spaced an inch or so apart and appears to have been re-used.

5. Porch: The porch on the northwest elevation has a floor of concrete on a stone foundation wall. Wooden box columns support the wooden porch roof. The porch balusters are of square cross section, wood.
6. Chimneys: Both end chimneys are of stone construction. The portions of the chimneys above the roof are plastered. A pair of arches in the cellar spans the space beneath each first floor fireplace.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The cellar door in the northeast end wall is a Dutch door. A segmental arch in stone spans the opening. The northwest (front) door is a replacement, narrower than the original opening. On the southeast elevation, two pairs of pintles on one jamb show that a Dutch door led from the first-floor hall to ground level. It is now reduced to a window.
 - b. Windows and shutters: First-floor window openings are spanned by segmental arches at the front of the house, and the cellar windows here have flat arches. All arches are in stone. First-floor windows have twelve-over-one-light sash; second floor has eight-over-one lights; attic has six-over-six lights. The muntins in the first and second floor windows are wide and heavy. There are no shutters.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The wooden eaves have modillions at the front and back of the building. There is no eave projection at the gable ends, but the roof flares slightly.

- c. Dormers: There is one gable-roofed dormer in the center of the southeast elevation. Rafter ends are exposed at the eaves, and the window has six-over-one lights.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans

- a. First floor: A central hall runs through the house and contains the stairs. There is one room on either side of the hall.
- b. Second floor: The lay-out is essentially the same as the first floor. The northwest end of the hall has been made into a bathroom. The large room on the northeast end has been divided into two.
- c. Attic and Basement: The attic and basement are both large unfinished spaces.

- 2. Stairways: Treads and risers are softwood. Balustrade is walnut. A low, paneled wainscot follows the stairway from first floor to the attic. Wainscot is softwood. Flat scrolls ornament the step ends.
- 3. Flooring: Pine planks, 10 to 14" wide. The two rooms on the first floor have a linoleum covering on the floors. Ends of attic floor are visible: here planks are grooved on both sides and joined by splines, which fit into adjoining grooves.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Ceilings are the underside of the plank flooring, butt jointed. The second floor has a new ceiling attached to the timbers. Walls are plastered or, at fireplaces, wood paneled. Riven lath visible in stairway to cellar. Much of the plaster looks recent and has a brown-coat finish. In cellar are remains of reddish mud plaster on fireplace foundation with white finish, possibly whitewash.
- 5. Doorways and Doors: First-floor doors are missing. Second floor doors to bedrooms are of five-panel type (center panel horizontal, others vertical), 1 1/4" thick. At hallway side the panel faces are flush with the stiles and rails and molded at the edges; at the room side the panels are flush and recessed. Thresholds at doorways, including the two adjoining bedrooms.

6. Decorative features and trim: Southwest first-floor room has a very fine paneled wall at the fireplace, with pilasters and arched cabinet doors all of Georgian design. The wood appears to be pine and reveals paint coats of white (topmost), dark green, and grayish olive. Cabinets account for some of the space enclosed; the rest must be unused. The projecting mantel has fine reeding incorporated into a simple design.

The second-floor southwest room also has a finely paneled fireplace wall, with closets on either side of the off-center fireplace.

At the first-floor northeast room there is a simpler paneled wall surrounding the fireplace. A fireback in the southwest fireplace, featuring a heraldic shield and marked "OXFORD 1742" was removed and stored at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters. A rack made of rough wooden pegs in a board is fastened to the exposed beam at right wall in entrance hall.

7. Hardware: Extant interior doors have wrought-iron thumb latches. The exterior cellar door has Dutch pintle and strap hinges with flattened, circular portion near hinge jamb to receive several nails. Old hinges at paneled walls and second floor doors.
8. Mechanical equipment: Modern electric lighting; forced air central heating; coal-burning boiler.

D. Site:

The house faces northwest on the uphill side of the road and sits into the hillside. The barn (HABS No. NJ - 736) and farmland is on the other side of the road.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
William C. Badger
Project Historians
HABS
July, 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1967 under the direction of Robert C. Giebner (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects David L. Bouse (University of Nebraska), William L. McQueen (University of Illinois), and Dennis E. Walo (Texas A & M University) in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Wesley Shank and William C. Badger, project historians, in 1970. This written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1967.